

Schwand/Maeniggrund, the home of our ancestors.

We walked across the road and through a meadow of tall grass and wild flowers. The Simmental cows with big bells around their necks were peacefully grazing. It was so peaceful and quiet, except for the tinkling of the bells. We walked over to the old dairy, drinking in the beauty around us. John III wrote in his journal that he had hunted chamois and William John has written that as a small boy he had herded goats in the mountains above us. The "Dairy" was built in 1841. It looked familiar to those of us who had lived or visited the Dairies in Idaho. The big cheese kettle that could be moved back and forth over an open fire, the cheese presses, the old milking buckets and stools brought back memories. Initials had been carved on the door of the "drying room" where the cheese aged on the shelves. The men would bring the cows down from the higher alps for three weeks in the summer to milk and make cheese. In the dairy, the men played cards and drank Italian wine and made lots of cheese. The real alps are found in Schwischenfluh.

As we rode the bus down the mountain, we saw the destruction caused by a five foot wall of water that came down the canyon on the seventh day of the seventh month in 1977. There was reconstruction work going on. We passed the cemetery and the little school house and Aunt Maede's home on our way to Schwendon, the home of Rosina Knutti, wife of John II. It was also the home of Uncle Christian, father of Seymor and Frank Kunz.

It was past lunch time, 2:35 p.m. We stopped at a cafe for a sandwich and a drink. It took some time to make all those sandwiches. The waitress's name was Mani. We got back to the bus at 3:45 p.m. As we drove past the Simmental Hospital, we were told that the "Kunz people all go there to die." The church in Diemtigen has over 450 years of Kunz history. John III and Magdalena Straubhaar were married here. John II and Rosina Knutti were both baptized (sprinkled) here and little Jacob and Matilda, babies of John III and Magdalena, were buried in the Diemtigen cemetery.